

# Planned Parks Provide for REST, PLEASURE



• Stone Fireplaces Permit Large Outdoor Parties in Shade of Old Trees.

THE UNIQUE arrangement of the original city of Torrance, with its residential districts along two sides of a square and the business district connecting them diagonally, produced several small triangular sites where streets intersected. These were properly devoted to small parks, so no home would be far from a place where the family might betake itself for a refreshing breath of nature.

Then, too, the central feature of the plan was a long park, running three blocks from the high school location right down into the business district. Recognizing the similarity of this to a parade ground the founders named it "El Prado," and it is today a most unique departure from conditions found in most other cities in that it provides a splendid relief from the usual regularity of blocks of homes and business buildings.

#### Civic Center Site

MANY cities today are searching for places where they may locate their civic centers. Torrance's was already provided. Many a metropolis finds it necessary today to de-

molish whole blocks of homes in order to provide fire breaks against possible disastrous holocausts. Not so with Torrance, for El Prado serves a utilitarian as well as an esthetic purpose.

The original city of Torrance, then, included seven parks, totaling less than ten acres. Annexation of the Meadow Park tract, including Hollywood Riviera, in 1927 provided an eighth park, while the ninth and largest in the system is the newly developed Municipal park.

A trifle under ten acres in extent, this beautiful rest spot was formerly part of the vast Torrance oil fields. Production there ceased at an early date and three years ago the city acquired the site and began to improve it.

#### Difficult Problem

THE TASK was not an easy one. The site was overlaid with thousands of tons of oil-soaked sand, rotary mud and the other concomitants of an abandoned oil field. All these had to be removed and replaced with fresh material ere vegetation could be expected. It took six months for this part of the task.

Meantime, the city's engineering department, under F. R. Leonard, was preparing plans for a modernized development, actual execution of which was in the hands of Street Superintendent William Gascoigne. Towering cypress trees, broad wavy palms, and a myriad of smaller trees, shrubs and bushes were located and prepared for the day when they would be transplanted to their new locations.

In a civic-minded spirit, many of these trees and shrubs were donated by individual citizens and organizations as an everlasting memorial to the town they loved.

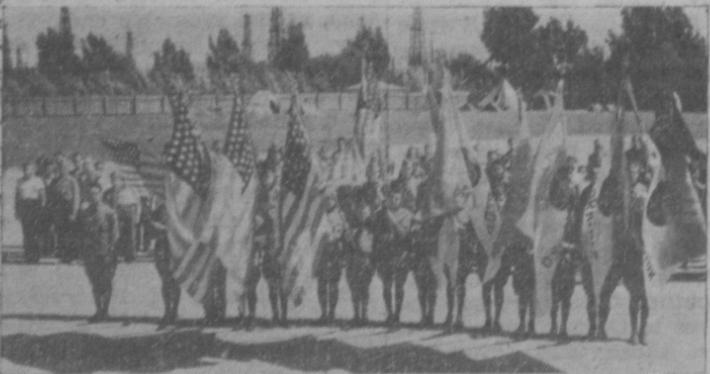
Preliminary work completed, the huge moving job was undertaken. The new-old trees were set in place, the ground sodded and the entire premises landscaped. Walks were built and a fountain constructed. Barbecue pits and picnic sites were located and a large shell for open-air concerts was erected.

#### Trees Older Than City

TO THE credit of those who performed the work, it may be recorded that the difficult



• Municipal Park's Pleasant Fountain.



• Trooping the Colors at Scout Jamboree.



• Regional Boy Scouts on Parade.



• Scene In Municipal Park.

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